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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001*

Part one (i)
Foreword and introduction

Contents

Page

Foreword 2

Introduction 3

* The present document contains part one (i) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001. The complete proposed programme budget will subsequently be issued in final printed form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1).

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Foreword

1. I have the honour to submit the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001. This is the last programme budget proposal within the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 and the first budget of the new millennium.

2. In formulating this programme budget, highest consideration has been given to forward proposals that would fully address the programme priorities identified by the General Assembly and enable the full, efficient and effective implementation of the mandates set by Member States.

3. These proposals for 2000–2001 build on the gains in productivity and effectiveness made in 1998–1999 through the implementation of the 1997 structural reforms. The forthcoming biennium will allow a consolidation of these gains as tasks are undertaken with greater effectiveness while applying the benefits of past and ongoing investments in staff training and technology.

4. It is my strong hope that following approval of the programme budget, Member States will, without exception, pay their contributions in full in accordance with the Charter.

5. I commend these proposals for the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 to the General Assembly.

Kofi A. **Annan**
Secretary-General

Introduction

1. The formulation of the proposed programme budget is guided by two paramount considerations — the medium-term plan and the programme budget outline. The medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as approved by the General Assembly, provides the framework for the programme budget. The outline, as decided by the Assembly in its resolution 53/206 of 18 December 1998 guides the Secretary-General in formulating his proposals for the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.

2. In resolution 53/206, the General Assembly decided that the priorities for the biennium 2000–2001 were the maintenance of international peace and security; the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with its relevant resolutions and recent United Nations conferences; the development of Africa; the promotion of human rights; the effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts; the promotion of justice and international law; disarmament; and drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The budget has been formulated in the light of those priorities.

3. The proposed programme of work has been formulated with a view to meeting the objectives and mandates set by Member States. In formulating such a programme every effort has been made to ensure the full, efficient and effective implementation of those objectives and mandates. In this regard, thorough review by programme managers has been necessary to ensure efficient utilization of resources.

4. The outcome of these efforts is reflected in the proposals contained in the programme budget, which includes a level of resources before recosting amounting to $2,535.6 million (99.6 per cent of the approved outline). Resolution 53/206 specified certain priorities to be followed in formulating the budget. They are tabulated below with an indication of the related response, which is reflected in the programme budget proposals.

Priority items	*Response*	*Real growth (percentage)*	*Growth in number of posts*
Maintenance of international peace and security	Section 3, Political Affairs Funding secured for $86.2 million for special political missions and non-post growth of $0.4 million in the Department of Political Affairs	1.1	–
Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences	Part IV, International cooperation for development	1.9	8
Development of Africa	Section 10, Africa: New Agenda for Development	15.0	4
Promotion of human rights	Section 22, Human rights	3.8	7
Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts	Section 25, Humanitarian assistance	9.7	4
Promotion of justice and international law	Section 7, International Court of Justice Section 8, Office of Legal Affairs	3.2 3.6	4 2
Disarmament	Section 4, Disarmament	4.0	2
Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations	Section 15, International drug control Section 14, Crime prevention and criminal justice	15.6 11.2	3 1

5. In formulating proposals for the budget outline the Secretary-General had indicated an anticipated requirement of $20 million to provide for a number of mandates for the convening of major conferences and special sessions as well as reinforcement of programmes such as the United Nations Office in Nairobi. These elements have been provided for in the relevant sections. The total related provision required, at approximately $11.0 million, represents approximately $9 million less than had originally been anticipated as a preliminary indicative estimate.

6. In addition, in accordance with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 53/206, the proposals include provision of $86.2 million at revised 1998–1999 rates for special political missions whose mandates, while expiring in 1999, may be renewed for part or all of the biennium 2000–2001. The programme budget for the current biennium included an amount of $100.9 million for special political missions.

7. The proposals contained in the programme budget can be summarized in the context of recent bienniums as indicated below. The recosted resources of $2,655.4 million have been determined on a preliminary basis, reflecting inflation expected in 2000 and 2001 and rates of exchange prevailing in 1998.

	Resources	*Increase compared with revised 1998–1999 appropriations*
	Millions of United States dollars	
Revised 1994–1995 appropriation	2 608.3	
Revised 1996–1997 appropriation	2 603.3	
Revised 1998–1999 appropriation	2 529.9[a]	
Outline for 2000–2001	2 545.0	15.1
Proposed 2000–2001 (before recosting)	2 535.6	5.7
Proposed 2000–2001 (after preliminary recosting)	2 655.4	125.5

[a] Initial appropriations for 1998–1999: $2,532.3.

8. Recosting, at the present stage, is based on rates of exchange applied to the first year (1998) of the current biennium reflected in the first performance report (A/53/693), approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, and on inflation assumptions for 2000 and 2001. In accordance with established practice, the proposed programme budget will be recosted again prior to its adoption by the Assembly in December 1999. At that time, the latest data on actual inflation experience, the outcome of salary surveys and the movement of post adjustment indices in 1999 will be taken into account; a similar exercise will be followed relative to exchange rates, taking into account the evolution of operational rates of exchange. The effects of recosting at the present stage are reflected in paragraphs 25 and 28 below.

9. The proposed programme budget shows a 0.2 per cent real growth before recosting. The distribution of resources by budget part compared with current appropriations is as follows:

Parts		1998–1999 appropriations	Changes		2000–2001 before recosting	Recosting	2000–2001
			Amount	Percentage			
I.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	468 995.0	489.2	0.1	469 484.2	20 419.0	489 903.2
II.	Political affairs	239 568.3	(13 724.6)	(5.7)	225 843.7	15 779.7	241 623.4
III.	International justice and law	53 108.8	1 630.4	3.1	54 739.2	2 823.6	57 562.8
IV.	International cooperation for development	266 728.5	5 089.3	1.9	271 817.8	11 646.5	283 464.3
V.	Regional cooperation for development	355 924.8	683.8	0.2	356 608.6	24 581.9	381 190.5
VI.	Human rights and humanitarian affairs	125 271.6	3 234.0	2.6	128 505.6	3 953.6	132 459.5
VII.	Public information	135 574.0	2 009.0	1.5	137 583.0	8 151.0	145 734.0
VIII.	Common support services	446 297.8	(4 182.2)	(0.9)	442 115.6	17 971.0	460 086.6
IX.	Internal oversight	17 941.5	943.5	5.3	18 885.0	1 194.9	20 079.9
X.	Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses	58 508.5	(715.1)	(1.2)	57 793.4	4 546.8	62 340.2
XI.	Capital expenditures	34 173.1	8 954.5	26.2	43 127.6	2 526.1	45 653.7
XII.	Staff assessment	314 746.6	1 289.6	0.4	316 036.2	6 163.1	322 199.3
XIII.	Development account	13 065.0	–	–	13 065.0	–	13 065.0
	Total	**2 529 903.5**	**5 701.4**	**0.2**	**2 535 604.9**	**119 757.5**	**2 655 362.4**

10. Estimates of income for 2000–2001 amount to $370.4 million, compared with estimates of $362.7 million for 1998–1999 — an increase of $7.7 million.

A. Proposed staffing

11. In respect of posts, for 2000–2001, a staffing level of 8,802 is proposed, which compares with 10,021 in 1996–1997 and 8,741 in 1998–1999. The proposed 2000–2001 level represents an increase of 61 posts when compared with the staffing level approved for 1998–1999. The difference is broken down as follows:

	Number of posts
Approved for 1998–1999	8 741
Proposed for 2000–2001	8 802
Change	**61**
Of which:	
New posts (44) less abolition (19)	25
Conversion	36

12. The overall grading structure of posts in the Professional category and above would reflect a slight relative strengthening at the P-3/P-4 level:

	1998-1999		*2000-2001*	
Level	*Posts*	*Percentage*	*Posts*	*Percentage*
Deputy Secretary-General	1	–	1	–
USG/ASG	43	1.2	43	1.2
D-2	75	2.1	75	2.0
D-1	253	7.0	257	7.0
P-5	671	18.5	683	18.5
P-4	1 098	30.3	1 129	30.6
P-3	1 044	28.8	1 066	28.9
P-2/1	436	12.0	435	11.8
Total	**3 621**	**100.0**	**3 689**	**100.0**

13. The proposals reflect a reduction in the proportion of General Service to Professional staff. In the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, General Service posts represent 58.6 per cent of total posts. In 2000–2001, this percentage would go down to 58.1.

14. The distribution of posts by parts is as follows:

			Changes		
Parts		*1998-1999*	*Posts*	*Percentage*	*2000-2001*
I.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	1 997	3	0.2	2 000
II.	Political affairs	617	2	0.3	619
III.	International justice and law	199	6	3.0	205
IV.	International cooperation for development	1 126	8	0.7	1 134
V.	Regional cooperation for development	1 982	9	0.5	1 991
VI.	Human rights and humanitarian affairs	503	11	2.2	514
VII.	Public information	730	–	–	730
VIII.	Common support services	1 505	17	1.1	1 522
IX.	Internal oversight	82	5	6.1	87
	Total	**8 741**	**61**	**0.7**	**8 802**

15. New posts are proposed only on a highly selective basis. They are requested as follows:

Executive Office of the Secretary-General	1 P-5
Secretariat of the Board of Auditors	1 P-3
Office of the Director-General, Nairobi	1 P-5, 1 Local level
Political affairs	1 General Service (Other level)
Disarmament	1 P-2, 1 P-3 1 General Service (Principal level)
International Court of Justice	2 P-4, 2 P-2

Legal affairs	2 P-3
Africa: New Agenda for Development	1 P-4, 1 P-3 1 General Service (Other level) 1 Local level
Crime prevention and criminal justice	1 P-4
International drug control	2 P-4, 1 P-3
Economic and social development in Africa	3 P-4, 2 P-3
Economic development in Europe	1 P-4
Human rights	2 P-5, 2 P-4, 3 P-3
Humanitarian assistance	1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3
Internal oversight	1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 2 General Service (Other level)

16. There are proposals for 30 reclassifications as follows:

Executive Office of the Secretary-General	1 P-2 to P-3
General Assembly affairs and conference services	4 P-2 to P-3
Disarmament	1 P-5 to D-1
Outer space affairs	1 P-3 to P-4
Legal affairs	1 P-2 to P-3
Economic and social affairs	2 P-3 to P-4
Economic and social development in Africa	1 P-3 to P-4
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	1 P-4 to P-5, 1 Field Service to P-4
Economic development in Europe	1 P-4 to P-5, 3 P-3 to P-4
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	3 Local level to P-2
Economic and social development in Western Asia	1 P-3 to P-4
Human rights	1 General Service (Other level) to General Service (Principal level)
Public information	1 P-5 to D-1
Office of Central Support Services	1 P-3 to P-4
Administration, Geneva	1 P-3 to P-4
Administration, Vienna	1 P-3 to P-4 1 P-4 to P-5 1 General Service (Other level) to General Service (Principal level)
Administration, Nairobi	1 Field Service to P-3
Internal oversight	1 P-5 to D-1

17. There are 36 conversions proposed from general temporary assistance to established posts distributed as follows:

Economic and Social Development in Africa	3 Local level
Office of Central Support Services (IMIS)	1 D-1, 5 P-5, 7 P-4, 11 P-3, 1 P-2, 4 General Service (Other level)
Administration, Nairobi	1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3

The IMIS conversions are explained in paragraph 37 and section 27D below.

18. There are 19 abolitions of established posts proposed, distributed as follows:

General Assembly affairs and conference services	1 P-2, 1 General Service (Other level)
Political affairs	1 General Service (Principal level)
Disarmament	1 General Service (Other level)
Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management	1 P-3
Office of Human Resources Management	3 General Service (Other level)
Office of Central Support Services	2 General Service (Other level)
Administration, Geneva	1 P-2, 8 General Service (Other level)

19. The above-mentioned changes in the staffing table reflect the overall effect of combining the needs of the many individual programme managers with the need to create an appropriate balance within the staffing structure. Efforts have been made to limit strictly the reclassification of posts and to structure proposals for new posts and for abolition of posts so that the overall pyramid would not become distorted. The ratio of posts in the Professional category and above to General Service posts has been improved and the erosion of posts at the P-2 and P-3 levels available for competitive examination purposes has been halted. However, the most significant change in the staffing table proposed in the budget does not show up from an analysis of numbers of new, abolished or reclassified posts. This is the proposal to redeploy posts between programmes and subprogrammes. In total some 591 posts are proposed for such redeployment as a result of programme managers searching for ways to better manage their human resources and apply them to priority needs.

B. Presentation and methodology

20. The budget is presented in terms of:

(a) 1996–1997 expenditures;

(b) 1998–1999 revised appropriations (see General Assembly resolutions 53/215 A of 18 December 1998 and 53/219 of 7 April 1999);

(c) Changes proposed for 2000–2001 in relation to the 1998–1999 appropriations (both in dollar and percentage terms);

(d) The total 2000–2001 proposals before recosting;

(e) Recosting to preliminary 2000–2001 rates;

(f) 2000–2001 estimates.

21. The methodology followed for the preparation of the programme budget remains unchanged from the methodology used in the previous biennium and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/212 A of 23 December 1992. Under that methodology, the appropriations for the current biennium are used as the starting point, that is, the base against which change is calculated.

22. Proposed increases and reductions are measured against the 1998–1999 revised appropriations, indicating changes that are being proposed to the current budget. These are presented at the same nominal value as the revised appropriation in order to permit real resource comparability.

23. The appropriation and the changes (increases/reductions) are then recosted to make provision for inflation and for application of a uniform vacancy rate.

24. With regard to currency, as the budget is expressed in United States dollars, the movement of currencies in relation to the dollar could have a sizeable impact on expenditures in other currencies. In the recosting, no attempt is made to forecast the movement of currencies vis-à-vis the United States dollar. This will be dealt with in accordance with existing procedures in December 1999.

25. With regard to inflation, adjustments have to be made to bring the appropriations and changes to 2000–2001 prices. The related recosting provision is $94 million.

26. With regard to staff in the Professional category and above, adjustments relate to the forecast of movement of post adjustment indices during 1999. With regard to General Service salaries, recosting includes the forecast of probable cost-of-living adjustments in 1998 and 1999 based on anticipated inflation rates.

27. Adjustments, as reflected in the growth column of the transition from the 1998–1999 revised appropriation to the 2000–2001 requirements (before recosting), have been made with regard to the delayed impact arising from the discontinuation of 51 posts (21 in the Professional category and above and 30 General Service) in 1999 under sections 2, 9, 11A, 17 and 27 and the associated staff assessment, which amounts to a reduction in resources of $3.8 million. In this connection, it will be recalled that this post reduction was approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session in the context of approval of the initial appropriation for the biennium 1998–1999.

28. A uniform vacancy rate is proposed for 2000–2001 for Professional and General Service posts; 5 per cent for Professional and 2.5 per cent for General Service. This reflects the vacancy rate utilized in the initial appropriation for 1998–1999, and that assumed in the first performance report for the second year of the current biennium, 1999. It will be recalled that for 1998, the realized level of vacancies for 1998 had slightly exceeded 10 per cent for the Professional category and above, and under these exceptional circumstances adjustments to the 1998 vacancy factor for that year only were implemented and reflected in the first performance report. The related recosting provision is $26 million.

29. As in previous bienniums, 1996–1997 expenditures have been included in the budgetary presentation. However, because of the unusual circumstances associated with that biennium, the column would not always allow for a meaningful basis of comparison to the 1998–1999 appropriation or the resources proposed for the biennium 2000–2001. In adopting the budget for the biennium 1996–1997, the General Assembly, while recognizing that the amounts under the expenditure sections represented a provisional total of $2,712 million, decided that the total level of expenditures provided for 1996–1997 would be $2,608 million. Consequently, in order to effect reductions of that magnitude in a short time-frame the norms that govern the programme budget had to be set aside in 1996–1997 to meet a predetermined level of budget. Hence levels and patterns of expenditure actually realized in the biennium 1996–1997 reflect some distortion of norms, and as such do not always constitute an adequate basis for comparison to subsequent provisions.

30. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/207 of 18 December 1998, approved the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation proposed by the Secretary-General in his report of 1 June 1998 (A/53/133).

31. Under regulation 5.4, programme narratives of the proposed programme budget are required to set out, *inter alia*, expected accomplishments during the biennium. Accordingly, budget proposals for each section include narratives that respond to that regulation.

32. Similarly, under regulation 5.6, the Secretary-General is requested to submit to the General Assembly, with justification, a list of outputs included in the previous budgetary period which in the judgement of the Secretary-General can be discontinued and which, as a consequence, have not been included in the proposed programme budget. Details have been included in the annex to part one.

C. Other factors underlying the budget proposals

33. In addition to the issues raised hereunder, a number of areas have been included in the annex to part one that attempt to address the matters raised in reports and resolutions of the General Assembly and competent review bodies with budgetary impact, notably, the publications programme, liaison offices and costs relating to Administrative Committee on Coordination machinery.

34. The thrust of these budget proposals is to continue to obtain substantial benefits from the application of the latest available information technology coupled with an expanded training programme for investment in staff. The dual approach of continued investment in technology and staff training may be expected to have a deeper and more pervasive impact on the effectiveness of the Organization than the modest additional resource increments that are being focused on high-priority programme areas. Considerations related to both training and technology are outlined below, as well as to efficiency measures, the development account, gender mainstreaming and the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*.

Training

35. In the proposals for 2000–2001, particular attention has been paid to the need to maintain and enhance the skills of staff. With regard to the training of staff, $1.4 million at revised rates, or a 10.1 per cent increase in resources, is proposed in line with the Secretary-General's human resources management reform agenda, which stresses the need for strengthening the staff and building a competent, multi-skilled, versatile and independent civil service.

36. In this context, the additional resources would enable the Secretary-General to make available an expanded range of programmes aimed at building and strengthening core organizational and managerial competencies; to provide greater opportunities for staff at all levels to upgrade specific technical and substantive skills; to support decentralization of human and financial resource management responsibilities and to strengthen career support mechanisms.

Integrated Management Information System and information technology issues

37. In the tenth progress report on IMIS (A/53/573 and Add.1), the additional estimated requirements for IMIS over and above the budget approved by the General Assembly amounted to $9.5 million. Of this amount, $6.5 million has been appropriated in the biennium 1998–1999, and the remaining $3.0 million would be required in the biennium 2000–2001. Accordingly, the requirement relating to the final phase of IMIS development has been included in the present proposals under section 27D, Office of Central Support Services. In addition to the development requirements, resources have been included in a number of sections for core ongoing maintenance and support of IMIS, as well as support for specialized applications that interface into IMIS. These are, *inter alia*, sections 16A, 17, 19, 20 and the various subsections of section 27. Proposals are also included for the conversion of 29 general temporary assistance positions to established post status to provide for the continued maintenance and support of IMIS by the Office of Common Support Services.

38. On information technology in general, in association with developing a new organizational culture in a global secretariat, over recent years, substantial investment has been placed on harnessing the benefits of new information technologies for furthering the objectives of the Organization. Training continues to highlight information technology as an invaluable tool for decision-making, communication and dissemination of information particularly with the variety of electronic facilities and techniques available, such as electronic mail, video-conferencing, continuing improvement of the United Nations Web page on the Internet and the connection of this facility with the United Nations optical disk system.

39. The optical disk system and the increasing databases of documents on the United Nations Web page have had benefits both within the Organization and for Member States, improving accessibility to resolutions and decisions of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Trusteeship Council from 1946 onwards.

40. Access to a number of databases, in particular the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, the United Nations *Treaty Series*, UN-I-QUE (a reference file created by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library), InfoNation (statistical information on various indicators of United Nations Member States), databases on landmines, United Nations press releases, daily briefings and daily highlights, the *Journal* and the daily list of documents, has contributed not only to the effective implementation of the programme of work of the Organization by the Secretariat, but has also aided the promotion of the activities and work of the Organization to a wide external audience. There is also a considerable amount of information available on CD-ROM. For example, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees maintains some 14 databases known collectively as REFWORLD, which include country reports, case law, legal instruments and legislation, available over the Internet and on CD-ROM.

41. The United Nations is striving to make full use of the opportunities provided by the Internet/Intranet. This has been an invaluable tool for information exchange and dissemination. For example, a number of substantive departments provide information on their activities on the United Nations home page, and it provides links to other Web sites systemwide. The Department for Disarmament Affairs proposes to develop and post information on the Web page of the Conventional Arms Branch; the Office for Outer Space Affairs proposes to continue to improve its Internet Web site to serve as the coordinating node for information relating to space-related activities of the organizations of the United Nations; the International Court of Justice is reviewing the development of the Court's Web site to enhance its use of the Internet and Intranet for publication of Court documents; and the United Nations Web site is utilized to inform the vendor community and the public about the Organization's procurement and vendor registration procedures and procurement figures.

42. Electronic mail and video-conferencing have enabled communication with limited delays associated with the various time zones within which the Organization implements its programme of work.

Efficiency measures and the development account

43. The development account, which was proposed as part of the 1997 reform measures, was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997. It is recalled that in the report of the Secretary-General of 11 August 1998 (A/52/1009) proposals were made to the General Assembly on a range of elements relating to the development account. These included modalities for identifying gains and transferring funds for the development account. Under this heading, it was indicated that programme managers would be developing initiatives to improve productivity and enhance the quality of programme performance. At that time it was envisaged that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 would include information relating to those initiatives in each budget section. Subsequent developments have precluded such a procedure. The review of the report of the Secretary-General, begun at the fifty-third session, has, at time of writing, not yet been completed. Indeed by its resolution 53/220 of 7 April 1999, the General Assembly decided to continue consideration of the development account at the second part of its resumed fifty-third session. Once the General Assembly has completed its consideration of matters relating to the development account it is anticipated that the Secretary-General will be in a position to report

to the General Assembly on the specific measures which he would intend to apply in the context of implementing the budget for the biennium 2000–2001. These measures would be aimed at securing further efficiencies, largely in the administrative areas, so as to ensure better overall resource utilization and thereby facilitate identification of resources that might be transferred to the development account.

Gender mainstreaming

44. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/100 of 12 December 1997, requested all bodies that deal with programme and budgetary matters, including the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to ensure that all programmes, medium-term plans and programme budgets visibly mainstream a gender perspective. The Economic and Social Council, in its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 called, *inter alia*, on the organizations of the United Nations system to promote mainstreaming of the gender perspective at all levels, including in the design, monitoring and evaluation of their policies and programmes, in order to ensure effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In its discussion of the outline for the proposed programme budget for 2000–2001, the Committee for Programme and Coordination expressed the view that the Secretariat should make every effort to address the issue of gender sensitivity in the budgetary process (A/53/16, part two, chap. II, para. 20).

45. The Economic and Social Council, in its agreed conclusions 1997/2, defined gender mainstreaming as "the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality."

46. There are, of course, specific programmes and subprogrammes in the medium-term plan and in the programme budget that address issues related to the advancement of women. However, the mainstreaming of the gender perspective goes beyond the targeted programmes for the advancement of women and beyond gender balance in the Secretariat. Efforts were therefore made to include gender mainstreaming in other programmes and activities of the Organization for the biennium 2000–2001.

47. While the budget document may be considered a "gender-neutral" instrument, the purpose of gender mainstreaming is to ensure that it is not, at the same time, "gender-blind". In the workshops on gender mainstreaming conducted by the Staff Development Services of the Office for Human Resources Management in consultation with the Division for the Advancement of Women, the attention of programme managers was drawn to the need not only to recognize that their work may have a different impact on different target groups, including both women and men, but also to acknowledge that their work should reflect a gender perspective at the stage of policy and programme development. By paying greater attention to gender analysis, programme managers are better able to define more accurately the intended beneficiaries and thus formulate clearer objectives that take gender into account. This, in turn, would facilitate the design of programmes, outputs and services and their implementation in a more equitable manner.

48. The application of the concept of gender mainstreaming has been discussed at the inter-agency level on a regular basis, and programme managers within each organization have been urged to make a commitment to ensuring that their work reflects a gender perspective. While gender mainstreaming in budget preparation is a relatively new concept, it is noted that, in response to the budget preparation instructions for the proposed programme budget for 2000–2001, specific attention has been given by a number of departments to this concept, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. The promotion of gender mainstreaming in the proposed programme budget for 2000–2001 can be found in activities related to the coordination and harmonization of statistics and data collection, including in the area of drug control issues; gathering and analysis of political data; advocacy strategies for disarmament; follow-up to major conferences; and research and

analysis in rural development, population, small business and entrepreneurship development, and technology transfer.

49. Although gender mainstreaming may not be directly identified at the aggregated level of outputs and activities in the budget document, it will continue to be addressed at the policy and programme development stage, as well as during implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the outcome of the Organization's programmes and activities, in order to determine the extent to which the concerns and needs of the beneficiaries of the Organization's work, women and men, are adequately met. Such information would be useful feedback for the preparation of future programme budgets and the determination of resource allocation.

Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs and Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council

50. In its resolution 51/209 of 17 December 1996, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the views expressed and the practical suggestions made during the debate held within the framework of the Sixth Committee, *inter alia*, to expedite the preparation and publication of supplements to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*. In its resolutions 52/161 of 15 December 1997 and 53/106 of 8 December 1998, the General Assembly reiterated its earlier request that the Secretary-General continue efforts to identify resources to undertake the work required in the two publications in a timely manner.

51. In his report of 3 October 1997 (A/52/317 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General indicated the steps taken by the Secretariat to expedite the preparation of the supplements to the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*, which included the distribution and assignment among Secretariat units of responsibility for the preparation of draft studies on the provisions of the Charter. At the same time, the report indicated that the fundamental problem affecting the preparation and production of supplements is that work on the supplements has been treated as an activity that should be carried out within existing resources. However, resource requirements for the work are such that most of the Secretariat units concerned find it increasingly difficult to prepare the studies at the pace and in the manner required by Member States, and given the need to implement mandated activities within the resources available for the Secretariat units, the flexibility to modify the programme of work to accommodate the preparation of the supplements is limited.

52. As reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/53/386), experience has confirmed that any sustained attempt to reduce the very substantial backlog of supplements requires placing the efforts of the departments concerned on a sound financial footing. In this connection, *Repertory*-related tasks will be included within relevant sections of future proposed programme budgets, starting with the biennium 2000–2001, with a view to ensuring that future work on the *Repertory* is supported with adequate resources. The level of resources required for the work on the backlog volumes for periods after 1984, which will be included in future programme budgets, will be based upon the order of priority to be assigned to each of the supplements.

53. Accordingly, for 2000–2001, additional general temporary assistance resources amounting to $2.2 million have been proposed in the budget for work on reducing the backlog in respect of the indexing of Supplement 5, the preparation of the remaining volumes of Supplement 6 and the start of Supplement 7 of the *Repertory* as follows:

Section		*Volume*	*2000–2001 estimates (thousands of United States dollars)*
2.	Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services	Preparation of volume II and start of volume IV of Supplement 6	389.0
3.	Department of Political Affairs	Volume III of Supplement 6	156.8
4.	Department for Disarmament Affairs	Volume II of Supplement 7 (Article 11)	26.0
5.	Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Volume III of Supplement 6	363.4
8.	Office of Legal Affairs	Volumes I and II of Supplement 6	77.0
9.	Department of Economic and Social Affairs	Volumes II and IV of Supplement 6	522.6
22.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Volumes II and IV of Supplement 6 and start of respective studies in Supplement 7	449.6
26.	Department of Public Information	Indexing of Supplement 5	80.2
27B.	Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	Volume II of Supplement 7 (Articles 17 and 19)	51.7
27C.	Office of Human Resources Management	Volume II (Article 8) and volume VI (Articles 100 (1) and 101) of Supplement 7	88.3
	Total		**2 204.6**

Section highlights

Section 1
Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	41 950.2	45 890.4	3 940.2
Posts	131	135	4

54. This section covers the direct costs of the sessions of the General Assembly, including additional support provided to the President of the General Assembly; the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, including its secretariat; the Committee for Programme and Coordination; the Committee on Contributions; the United Nations Board of Auditors, including its secretariat; and the United Nations reimbursement to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund for the travel of representatives of the United Nations to the meetings of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and its Standing Committee, as well as the Organization's share of the cost of the secretariat of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. It also covers the overall executive direction and management of the Organization, including the requirements of the Secretary-General and his Executive Office, and the Offices of the Directors-General of the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, and the United Nations Liaison Office at Addis Ababa. The establishment of the Office of the Director-General in Nairobi is being proposed for 2000–2001 in accordance with the provisions of section III, paragraph 101, of General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997. In line with the same resolution, provisions for the United Nations Liaison Office at Addis Ababa are reflected under this section.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	57.7	54.5
Other costs	42.3	45.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

55. Under policy-making organs, an increase of $2,437,400 is projected. This relates to increases in the requirements of the General Assembly ($165,000); the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, including its secretariat ($175,700); the United Nations Board of Auditors, including its secretariat ($600,300); and the United Nations reimbursement to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund to cover the costs of travel of representatives of the United Nations to meetings of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and its Standing Committee, as well as the Organization's reimbursement to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund to cover the costs of administrative services the Fund renders to the United Nations Staff Pension Committee ($1,553,900). These increases are partly offset by a reduction of $57,500 in the requirements of the Committee on Contributions.

56. The increase under the General Assembly reflects additional requirements for the travel of representatives of Member States that are least developed countries to four special sessions of the General Assembly. The four special sessions included in the estimates were authorized in resolutions 50/161 of 22 December 1995,

51/186 of 16 December 1996, 52/231 of 4 June 1998 and 53/180 of 15 December 1998. These increases are partly offset by a reduction in the overall estimate of travel based on attendance in previous years. The increase under the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions reflects the entitlement of an additional member, who is not stationed in New York, for payment of travel and subsistence. For 2000–2001, the estimates are based on 13 members of the Advisory Committee entitled to such payments, instead of the 12 members used in the 1998–1999 estimates. Owing to the requests by the Assembly for additional audits to be conducted by the Board of External Auditors, audit assignments of the staff provided by members of the Board have increased, resulting in longer duration and/or increased periodicity of audits. Accordingly, a corresponding increase is anticipated in the fees, travel and subsistence of such staff. For the same reasons, owing to increased activity, provisions have also been made for the establishment of a P-3 post in the secretariat of the Board. The estimates for the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund under the regular budget provide for one third of the costs of the administrative expenses of the central secretariat of the Fund. The increase (offset by increases under income section 2) results from the revised cost-sharing arrangements, which took effect on 1 January 1999. The reduction in the estimates of the Committee on Contributions is due mainly to the deletion of provisions for a special session of the Committee in 2000–2001.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	37.9	39.9
Executive direction and management	62.1	60.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

57. Under executive direction and management, an overall increase of $1,502,800 is requested. This relates to the requirements of the Secretary-General ($53,700); and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General ($985,700); the establishment of the Office of the Director-General in Nairobi ($396,700); and operational costs related to the United Nations Liaison Office at Addis Ababa ($66,700).

58. The Executive Office of the Secretary-General contains one-time requirements for activities called for in General Assembly resolution 53/202 of 17 December 1998 related to the Millennium Assembly and the Millennium Summit ($639,000), including provisions under general temporary assistance for a Coordinator at the Assistant Secretary-General level, supported by four positions (1 each at the P-5 and P-4 levels and 2 General Service staff). The establishment of a P-5 post is also proposed in the Office to assist the Deputy Secretary-General in her responsibilities related to the ongoing reform process. Lastly, owing to the nature of the work involved in speech writing, it is proposed to reclassify a P-2 post in the Office to the P-3 level. The establishment of an Office of the Director-General in Nairobi includes a proposal for the establishment of two posts, one P-5 Legal and Liaison Officer and one Local level support staff, and related operational costs.

Section 2
General Assembly affairs and conference services

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	427 044.8	423 593.8	(3 451.0)
Posts	1 866	1 865	(1)

59. Activities to be financed under this section of the proposed programme budget fall under programme 27, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as revised (A/53/6/Rev.1). They also include library services in Geneva and Vienna, which fall under subprogramme 23.3, Library services, of programme 23, Public information, of the medium-term plan.

60. The Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services was established in 1997 in the context of the Secretary-General's management reform measures, with a view of streamlining and strengthening technical support to the United Nations intergovernmental processes. The major objectives of the Department, which is headed by an Under-Secretary-General, will be to ensure, through the provision of authoritative advice and technical and substantive services, the orderly and procedurally correct conduct of the meetings and other work of the General Assembly and most of its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and related conferences and meetings, and the Trusteeship Council; and to provide to intergovernmental and expert bodies the high-quality meeting and documentation services they require to carry out their work, making the most cost-effective use of conference-servicing resources and facilities worldwide.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	77.5	78.1
Other costs	22.5	21.9
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

61. In the biennium 2000–2001 the Department will continue its efforts towards improving the utilization of conference-servicing resources, in particular through coordination of technical and conference services, better planning and organization of the services and progressive investment in new technologies, especially in the area of remote translation and interpretation, making conference servicing more efficient and cost-effective.

62. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services is also responsible for conference services at Geneva and Vienna. This arrangement will permit the management of conference-servicing resources in all three duty stations in an integrated manner, with a view of achieving the most efficient utilization of the conference-servicing resources. Therefore, the conference-servicing resources at Geneva and Vienna continue to be budgeted under this section. In Vienna, the United Nations will continue to provide conference services to UNIDO and IAEA, and, beginning with the biennium 2000–2001, to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, on a cost-sharing basis. As in the biennium 1998–1999, United Nations conference-servicing requirements in Vienna are prepared on a net budgeting basis (i.e., the appropriation required under this section represents only the United Nations share of

conference services). The gross budget for conference services in Vienna is nevertheless also submitted in this section to the General Assembly for its review and approval.

63. The estimated requirements under this section also include the requirements for special sessions of the General Assembly to be held in the biennium 2000–2001 and for other international meetings and conferences to be organized under the auspices of the United Nations, in accordance with specific decisions of the Assembly. In accordance with Assembly resolutions, conference services will also be provided to meetings of regional groups and other major groupings of Member States on an "as available" basis from within the existing capacity of the Department.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	0.2	0.2
Executive direction and management	0.3	0.5
Programme of work	98.7	98.3
Programme support	0.8	1.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

64. A net reduction in resources will be achieved through various cost-saving measures currently in place, including the improved control of resources budgeted for temporary assistance for meetings, increased capacity utilization, introduction of computer-assisted translation and the application of new technologies in the documentation and publishing services, while providing for full coverage of the programmed meetings and ensuring a sufficient quality of services. The disposition of resources within the section reflects the efforts of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services to streamline its organizational structure, concentrate resources in priority areas through internal redeployment and invest in new technologies. The level of resources would provide for the continuation of 910 posts in the Professional category and above and 955 posts in the General Service and related categories funded by the regular budget. This reflects the abolition of one Professional and one General Service post and the inward redeployment to this section of one Professional post from section 27D, Office of Central Support Services.

Section 3
Political affairs

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	142 092.6	127 888.5	(14 204.1)
Posts	195	195	–

65. The Department of Political Affairs is responsible for programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan. In its implementation, the Department provides support to the Secretary-General in carrying out his mandates relating to the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, including post-conflict peace-building, in the political aspect of his relations with Member States, in the provision of electoral assistance when requested by Member States and in the substantive servicing of the Security Council and its subsidiary bodies and the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, including the Committee on the Inalienable

Rights of the Palestinian People and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Provisions for special political missions, previously included in the budget section for peacekeeping operations, are now reflected under this section.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	25.3	28.0
Other costs	74.7	72.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

66. For the biennium 2000–2001, the overall amount requested includes $41.7 million relating to the Department of Political Affairs and $86.2 million for special political missions, as decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/206. No change is proposed in the number of posts. The decrease in the level of resources indicated in the table above is due largely to the provision for special political missions being lower than the 1998–1999 provisions, offset by increases in provisions for other staff costs, consultants and experts, and travel.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	0.1	0.1
Executive direction and management	3.2	3.6
Programme of work	23.0	25.8
Special political missions	71.0	67.4
Programme support	2.7	3.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

67. A substantial portion of the Department's budget proposals are for its regional divisions. A new Policy Planning Unit is proposed under subprogrammes 1 and 2. Special efforts will also be made to expedite the preparation of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*.

Section 4
Disarmament

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	12 975.9	13 498.4	522.5
Posts	46	48	2

68. The Department for Disarmament Affairs, headed by an Under-Secretary-General, was re-established in January 1998 to replace the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, as part of the Secretary-General's programme of reform, and is responsible for the implementation of programme 26, Disarmament, which is a priority area of work in the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, as revised. Following the end of the cold war, the United Nations has been called upon to take up new challenges and tasks as a result of the growing threat from the spread of weapons of mass destruction and from conventional arms.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	70.2	70.2
Other costs	29.8	29.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

69. In the biennium 2000–2001, the Department will continue to focus on promoting, strengthening and consolidating multilateral principles and norms for disarmament, with emphasis on nuclear disarmament. It will address issues of small arms, light weapons and landmines, as well as practical disarmament measures. It will expand its outreach activities, including its databases, to ensure the exchange of information on disarmament and non-governmental organizations and to enhance interaction and cooperation on such matters. The Department will, through its revitalized regional centres for peace and disarmament, vigorously promote the pursuit of regional solutions to regional problems.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making	0.3	0.3
Programme of work	99.7	99.7
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

70. For the biennium 2000–2001, the overall level of resources proposed for the Department reflects a growth of $522,500 (4.0 per cent) compared with the revised appropriations for the biennium 1998–1999. The increase is primarily the result of the reorganization of disarmament affairs following its transfer from the Department of Political Affairs as part of the Secretary-General's programme of reform for the biennium 1998–1999.

71. The proposals for posts include one new P-3 post in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch; one new P-2 post in the Monitoring, Analysis and Information Branch; one new General Service (Principal level) post and the abolition of one General Service (Other level) post, reflecting a realignment of functions between the Administrative Office of the Department and the Executive Office of the Department of Political Affairs following the reform measures; redeployment of one General Service (Other level) post from the Conference on Disarmament secretariat and Conference Support Branch in Geneva to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General; and reclassification of a P-5 post in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch to the D-1 level in view of the increased responsibilities related to multilateral disarmament agreements on weapons of mass destruction.

Section 5
Peacekeeping operations

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	80 565.0	80 432.6	(132.4)
Posts	358	358	–

72. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is responsible for programme 2, Peacekeeping operations, of the medium-term plan. The Department is responsible for the management and direction of peacekeeping operations; the provision of comprehensive administrative and logistic support to all field missions; the development, maintenance and enhancement of a ready, flexible capacity to undertake peacekeeping and other field operations; and for acting as the focal point in the coordination, monitoring and development of integrated mine-action programmes. Included in the estimates are the first two peacekeeping missions, UNTSO and UNMOGIP, which were established in 1948 and 1949, respectively, and continue to be funded from the regular budget, and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories. Resources related to special political missions, which were previously reflected under this section, are now reflected under section 3, Political affairs.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	60.1	60.2
Other costs	39.9	39.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

73. Within the overall amount requested, $13.9 million relate to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, $50.2 million to UNTSO, $18.3 million to UNMOGIP and $6.1 million to the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories. For the biennium 2000–2001, no change is proposed in the number and level of posts for each of these offices.

74. The total resources requested under the regular budget do not reflect the full requirements for the activities undertaken under the section. In respect of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Secretary-General will continue to utilize staffing under the support account for peacekeeping operations, and in respect of activities related to mine action coordination, voluntary contributions.

Section 6
Peaceful uses of outer space

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	3 934.8	4 024.2	89.4
Posts	18	18	–

75. The Office for Outer Space Affairs is responsible for the implementation of programme 3, Peaceful uses of outer space, of the medium-term plan. The Office provides parliamentary services to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee and Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and their subsidiary bodies, as well as the Working Group of the Whole on space-related agenda items of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly; provides assistance to those bodies in the formulation and adoption of legal instruments relating to space activities; plans and implements the United Nations Programme on Space Applications; serves as a focal point for the coordination of space activities among the organizations of the United Nations system and other space-related international organizations; and implements recommendations of the First and Second United Nations Conferences on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	84.2	83.4
Other costs	15.8	16.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

76. During the biennium 2000–2001, the Office will focus its activities on implementing the action plan adopted by UNISPACE III, as endorsed by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, in order to promote the use of space science and technology applications to solve problems of regional or global significance and to strengthen capabilities, in particular of developing countries, in the use of these applications for social, economic and cultural development. The Office also expects to establish new partnerships with civil society in implementing the programme and to contribute to increasing the awareness of the general public and policy makers, particularly those in developing countries, of the usefulness of space science and technology in advancing economic and social development.

77. Additional provisions are being sought for the reclassification of a P-3 to P-4 arising from greater responsibilities in advisory services on space technology and its application, in particular in the area of remote sensing; for maintenance of data-processing equipment in response to a recommendation by the Board of Auditors to share common service costs; and for the acquisition of technology-related equipment.

Section 7
International Court of Justice

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	20 659.6	21 314.7	655.1
Posts	57	61	4

78. The international Court of Justice, which sits at The Hague, is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and its principal judicial organ. It functions in accordance with its Statute, which forms an integral part of the Charter of the United Nations. The Court decides, in accordance with international law, disputes submitted to it by States and may render advisory opinions on any legal questions at the request of bodies so authorized by or in accordance with the Charter.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Members of the Court	36.5	34.3
Registry	43.3	45.9
Common services	20.2	19.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

79. The resources proposed include growth of $655,100 (3.1 per cent), related largely to the provision of four new posts (2 P-4 and 2 P-2) in The Registry and reflecting the efforts of the Court to tackle the increasing difficulty in handling its translation and publication needs, to reduce its backlog of publications and to introduce modern technology for improving documents storage, publication retrieval and distribution.

Section 8
Legal affairs

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	32 449.2	33 424.5	975.3
Posts	142	144	2

80. The Office of Legal Affairs is responsible for the implementation of programme 4, Legal affairs, of the medium-term plan and for the achievement of its objectives, which are to provide a unified central legal service for the Secretariat and the principal and other organs of the United Nations; to ensure proper legal arrangements in support of the activities of the United Nations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security; to contribute to the progressive development and codification of international public and trade law; to promote the strengthening, development and effective implementation of the international legal order for the seas and oceans; and to register and publish treaties and perform the

depositary functions of the Secretary-General. Drawing upon its basic orientation, the salient features of the work programme include the provision of legal services to and liaison between Headquarters and United Nations organs, offices and field and peacekeeping missions, and the examination of questions and the preparation of legal opinions on the interpretation of the Charter, resolutions, decisions, rules and regulations of the United Nations, treaties and questions of public international law.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	77.6	76.6
Other costs	22.4	23.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

81. The Office also provides legal assistance in connection with the development and implementation of the Staff Regulations and Rules and the Financial Regulations and Rules, procurement activities, property arrangements and other commercial activities in support of all aspects of the work of the Organization, including the provision of personnel and equipment for peacekeeping and other missions. In addition, the Office has primary responsibility for the resolution of legal disputes before judicial and arbitral bodies, including the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, and in negotiations and other procedures involving the Organization, such as commercial disputes and third-party liability claims and maintenance of respect for the privileges and immunities and the legal status of the Organization. Furthermore, the Office prepares draft international conventions, agreements and rules of procedure of United Nations organs and conferences; other legal instruments, publications and articles on legal matters; and studies to assist the progressive development and codification of international law and the law of international trade. In this context, the Office provides secretariat services for the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, the International Law Commission, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the relevant intergovernmental bodies established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other United Nations bodies dealing with legal matters. It also provides information, advice and assistance to States, including the monitoring of and reporting on developments relating to the law of the sea and ocean affairs, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Furthermore, the Office discharges the Secretary-General's depositary functions, the Secretariat's responsibilities under Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations on the registration and publication of treaties and the Secretary-General's responsibilities under the Statute of the International Court of Justice, except those of a budgetary nature.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	10.2	10.4
Programme of work	85.4	85.5
Programme support	4.4	4.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

82. For 2000–2001, the proposed staffing includes a proposal for the establishment of two Professional posts at the P-3 level in the General Legal Division and the secretariat of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal, respectively. Also, the reclassification of one P-2 (language) post to the P-3 level is proposed in the Treaty Section.

Section 9
Economic and social affairs

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	106 958.4	107 283.7	325.3
Posts	517	517	–

83. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is responsible for implementation of programme 28 of the medium-term plan. The focus of the work programme will be to provide integrated support for the central coordinating and policy-making functions vested in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, as well as for the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly; and to facilitate and promote enhanced policy coordination and greater cooperation and collaboration among the organizations of the United Nations system in the economic and social areas, in particular through the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary bodies.

84. In that context, the central focus of the Department is to use its integrated capacity for policy coordination, policy analysis and advisory services for the promotion of development and for enhancing international cooperation in the economic, social, environmental and related fields. In the execution of the programme, the Department is guided by the need to pay special attention to the needs of Africa, the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as to enhance South-South cooperation.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	87.4	86.0
Other costs	12.6	14.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

85. The central policy development and policy coordination functions of the Department are: promoting policy dialogue and support to policy development through the standing intergovernmental process in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies, in particular in the context of globalization of the world economy and the deepening interdependence of nations; strengthening support in the key areas of sustainable development, social development, gender issues, public economics and public administration based on the outcomes of United Nations conferences and special sessions; support for the coordination of functions of the central intergovernmental bodies; and assistance in enhancing policy coherence within and among organizations of the United Nations. To understand and enhance insights into the development process through policy analysis, the Department monitors, analyses and evaluates global, economic and social policies and trends, including population trends; compiles and disseminates analytical data, statistics and economic and social indicators; monitors the advancement and improvement of the status

of women; and analyses the role of the State and the public sector in development with a view to directly supporting the normative and policy-making functions of the Organization. The policy advisory services support, on request, the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to build national capacities in such fields as economic and social development, advancement of women, public administration and finance, natural resources and energy, statistics and population. The translation of international agreements into strategies and programmes at the national level and the sharing of development expertise and best practices at the national, subregional, regional and global levels will be promoted through the programme.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	2.9	3.6
Executive direction and management	4.2	3.9
Programme of work	85.6	84.8
Programme support	7.3	7.7
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

86. Resources are being sought for, *inter alia*, general temporary assistance in connection with the special sessions on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development; preparation of backlog volumes of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*; consultants and experts requirements in connection with the preparatory work for the special sessions of the General Assembly and with the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly on Financing for Development; and travel related to the organization of panels of eminent personalities and experts to be held in conjunction with the Second and the Third Committees of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies on issues of concern to them, including the high-level meeting on the renewal of dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership. These increased requirements would be offset by the 1998 provision for the interim secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa. As of 1 January 1999, the Convention as a treaty body had been financed by assessment of its States parties, and accordingly it has ceased to be funded through the regular budget.

Section 10
Africa: New Agenda for Development

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	5 230.0	6 013.1	783.1
Posts	19	23	4

87. The implementation of programme 6, Africa: New Agenda for Development, of the medium-term plan is under the joint responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Public Information. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs,

through the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, provides overall coordination and leadership of the programme.

88. The overall goal of the programme is to mobilize the support and galvanize the efforts of the international community for African development, including through an increased flow of financial resources; to ensure that African development remains one of the priorities of the international community; to promote a supportive framework for African development efforts; to promote a coordinated and effective response by the United Nations system at the policy and operational levels in support of African development; and to further enhance South-South cooperation.

89. The activities under the programme were given priority by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996, which was subsequently reiterated by the Assembly in its resolution 53/206. Activities to be carried out under this programme, in close cooperation with UNCTAD, also relate to the assessment and monitoring of the United Nations Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and implementation of General Assembly resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997 regarding the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	71.1	71.4
Other costs	28.9	28.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

90. To strengthen the activities under the programme related to effective and substantive monitoring and evaluation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa and the campaign for enhancing the global awareness of the economic situation in Africa, the 2000–2001 proposals include the addition of one P-4, one P-3, one General Service (Other level) and one Local level post. Further, additional resources are sought for general temporary assistance for the preparation of the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, consultants and experts for preparation of specialized studies and reports, ad hoc expert group meetings and operational requirements.

Section 11A
Trade and development

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	93 296.4	93 724.9	428.5
Posts	394	394	–

91. At its ninth session, held at Midrand, South Africa, in April 1996, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development adopted far-reaching reforms encompassing a more focused work programme, in particular in areas where UNCTAD has a clear comparative advantage; a streamlined intergovernmental machinery; improved working methods; a reduced number of meetings; and a restructuring of the secretariat.

92. Four main areas of concern have dominated the activities of UNCTAD since the ninth session: (a) the implementation of the new policy orientations defined at the session, namely, globalization and development strategies, investment, technology and enterprise development, international trade in goods, services and commodities, and services infrastructure for development and trade efficiency, as well as cross-sectoral issues, such as the problems of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, the empowerment of women, cooperation among developing countries and the UNCTAD contribution towards the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s; (b) making operational the new and streamlined intergovernmental machinery established at the session; (c) the finalization of the internal structure of the UNCTAD secretariat, taking into account the outcome of the session; and (d) the development and integration of management instruments into the daily activities of UNCTAD so as to strengthen the management culture of the organization. In the pursuit of its objectives, UNCTAD will continue to promote policy dialogue and exchange of experience among Governments, cooperation with other international organizations and the participation of non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector and other actors of development in its activities.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	86.5	85.8
Other costs	13.5	14.2
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

93. The resources requested reflect an increase of $428,500 over the 1998–1999 revised appropriation and largely reflect proposed increases under general temporary assistance in relation to the preparation and servicing of the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries to be held in the years 2000 and 2001 respectively; contractual services for the production of films and promotional material; purchase and upgrading of office automation equipment; and under grants and contributions for computer processing, data storage and other specialized services provided to UNCTAD.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	0.7	0.9
Executive direction and management	7.7	7.8
Programme of work	72.1	71.6
Programme support	19.5	19.7
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

Section 11B
International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

Comparison of overall resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	19 812.7	19 812.7	–

94. ITC is operated jointly by WTO and the United Nations, the latter acting through UNCTAD. The Centre's programme of work is guided by the Intergovernmental Joint Advisory Group, composed of the States members of WTO and UNCTAD. The primary objective of ITC is to promote the trade and export development of developing countries and to improve their import operations and management in order to achieve greater economy and efficiency in their export-import activities. To that end, the Centre will continue to act as the focal point for all United Nations technical cooperation activities in trade promotion in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1819 (LV) of 9 August 1973, directing those activities towards the development of country projects and, where feasible, linking them to regional and interregional projects in order to increase overall impact.

95. The budget of the Centre has been equally funded by GATT/WTO and the United Nations since its establishment in 1968. Since 1995, GATT responsibilities have been taken over by WTO. Revised administrative and financial arrangements for ITC were agreed between the secretariats of the United Nations and the WTO and reported to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in documents A/C.5/52/25 and A/C.5/53/38. The Assembly, in its decision 53/411 B of 18 December 1998, endorsed the revised administrative arrangements for ITC as set out in paragraph 11 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/53/7/Add.3). It is proposed, as the first stage of this process, to maintain the existing resource base, pending further consultation between the United Nations and WTO to determine the level of resources for funding the programme of work under section 11B. As recommended by the Advisory Committee, the outcome of these consultations will be submitted to the Committee and the Assembly in the form of an outline. It is anticipated that a detailed fascicle of the ITC programme of work will be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

96. At this stage, it is proposed to include in the proposed programme budget an amount of $19,812,700.

Section 12
Environment

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	8 756.6	8 713.9	(42.7)
Posts	39	39	–

97. The secretariat of UNEP is responsible for the implementation of programme 10, Environment, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. UNEP derives its mandate from General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which the Assembly decided to establish the UNEP Governing Council as the policy-making body, a secretariat to serve as the focal point for environmental action and coordination within the United Nations system, and the Environment Fund. The costs of servicing the

Governing Council and the secretariat are borne by the regular budget. The operational programme costs, programme support and administrative costs of the Environment Fund are borne by the Fund. The Executive Director of UNEP is responsible for the administration of the Environment Fund, under the authority and policy guidance of the Governing Council.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998-1999	*2000-2001*
Posts	77.3	78.0
Other costs	22.7	22.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

98. The mandate of UNEP has been confirmed through various legislative measures by both the General Assembly and the Governing Council of UNEP. Agenda 21 also established the need for an enhanced and strengthened role for UNEP and its Governing Council and indicated action that UNEP should undertake to contribute to its implementation. UNEP is also providing the secretariats to several global and regional conventions that have been established in areas related to UNEP programmatic activities.

99. The Governing Council of UNEP in 1997, at its nineteenth session, defined and clarified the role and mandate of UNEP in the Nairobi Declaration, which was endorsed by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in June 1997. Subsequently, in its decision SS.V/2 on the revitalization, reform and strengthening of UNEP, adopted at its fifth special session on 22 May 1998, the Governing Council identified five areas of concentration: environmental information, assessment and research, including environmental emergency response capacity and strengthening of early warning and assessment functions; enhanced coordination of environmental conventions and development of environmental policy instruments; fresh water; technology transfer and industry; and support to Africa. In addition, the Council requested the Executive Director to develop further his new proposals in the context of the programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001 and to make recommendations thereon to the Governing Council at its twentieth session.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998-1999	*2000-2001*
Policy-making organs	14.7	14.7
Executive direction and management	46.8	24.6
Programme of work	38.5	60.7
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

100. Given the timing of the decisions of the Governing Council at its fifth special session, it was not possible to include the programmatic aspects of the UNEP restructuring in the revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. However, the report of the UNEP Governing Council on its fifth special session (A/53/25) was submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, and in its resolution 53/187 of 15 December 1998, the Assembly welcomed that report of the Council and the decisions contained therein, and recognized, in particular, Council decision SS.V/2 on the revitalization, reform and strengthening of UNEP.

101. The proposals of the Executive Director were submitted to the Governing Council at its twentieth session, held in February 1999. By its resolution 20/31 (III) of 4 February 1999, the Council approved the programmatic restructuring set out in the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001, consisting of 7 subprogrammes and 26 subprogramme elements, which integrates all elements previously contained in the programme activity centres, as established in earlier decisions of the Governing Council, and, as a result, notes the dissolution of the following programme activity centres: Dryland Ecosystems and Desertification Control, Environmental Law and Institutions, Global Environment Monitoring System, Industry and Environment, International Register for Potentially Toxic Chemicals, the International Referral System for Sources of Environmental Information (INFOTERRA), Global Resource Information Database and Oceans and Coastal Areas.

102. The proposals of the Executive Director are designed to restructure the programme and secretariat along functional lines. Programmatically, the restructuring includes a revised subprogramme structure comprising seven subprogrammes: environmental assessment and early warning; policy development and law; policy implementation; technology, industry and economics; regional cooperation and representation; environmental conventions; and communications and public information. Administratively, the restructuring implies the transfer to the United Nations Office at Nairobi, under section 27G, Administration, Nairobi, of the functions which included budget administration, staffing table control, implementation of audit responses and provision of administrative support to the programme and to the secretariats of the environmental conventions associated with UNEP.

103. The estimated resources of $8,713,900 proposed reflect a decrease of $42,700, or 0.4 per cent, resulting from increases and decreases under various objects of expenditure, including the transfer of resources for travel ($49,600) from this section to section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, for the travel requirements of the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

Section 13
Human settlements

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	12 588.7	13 290.1	701.4
Posts	66	66	–

104. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) is responsible for the implementation of programme 11, Human settlements, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. The Centre is the focal point for human settlements programmes in the United Nations system and for providing technical cooperation in this field.

105. The basic orientation of the Centre's work programme for the biennium 2000–2001 emanates from the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul in June 1996. The Habitat Agenda, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/177 of 16 December 1996, outlines the goals, commitments, principles and a global plan of action to guide the sustainable development of human settlements. It further designates Habitat as the focal point for its implementation, and assigns a number of responsibilities to the Centre in that respect. As outlined in the medium-term plan, the strategies to achieve the goals of the Habitat Agenda include enablement and participation, capacity-building and institutional development. A major activity for the biennium 2000–2001, accountable for the bulk of the resource growth in this section, will be the preparation and servicing of the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

106. In its resolution 52/190 of 18 December 1997, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to undertake, in the light of the review of the mandate of the Commission on Human Settlements, a comprehensive and in-depth assessment of the Centre with a view to its revitalization. In response to that resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the assessment of the Centre (A/53/512), which the General Assembly took note of in its decision 53/441, indicating that the problems of dispersed and insufficiently focused activities had been addressed in various proposals by the Centre to restructuring the organization, and that it had been agreed that the Centre should be reorganized along programmatic lines.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	82.3	77.9
Other costs	17.7	22.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

107. The proposals by the Centre culminated in the "Strategic Vision for Habitat", tabled in November 1998. It envisaged a revitalized "Habitat: City Agency", which will adopt the style and profile of a global advocacy agency, dealing with human settlements issues in the context of an urbanizing world. The work programme for the biennium 2000–2001 provides the first opportunity to signal the fundamental changes that will be undertaken within Habitat — and between Habitat and its partners — to make this strategic approach a reality. Prepared during the process of assessment, the draft work programme reflects the need for a strategic focus with a limited number of well-defined objectives, while also providing for the necessary continuity within the overall orientation of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. The draft work programme indicates that the Centre will launch, in the biennium 2000–2001, two significant global campaigns, chosen as strategic entry points into the two Habitat Agenda themes of adequate shelter and sustainable urban settlements. These are the global campaign for secure tenure and the global campaign on urban governance. Accordingly, it was proposed that the work programme be implemented through two subprogrammes: adequate shelter for all and sustainable urban development. The Committee of Permanent Representatives, in December 1998, expressed their concurrence with the choice of two subprogrammes and outlined that their selection was a direct follow-up to the work of the revitalization team and its formulation of a strategic focus on the above two themes. The draft work programme is to be discussed and approved by the Commission on Human Settlements in May 1999.

108. Given the timing of these discussions since 1998, it was not possible to include the programmatic aspects of the restructuring and revitalization of the Centre in the revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 (A/53/6/Rev.1), submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session through the Committee for Programme and Coordination in 1998.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	8.5	8.1
Executive direction and management	21.0	20.2
Programme of work	70.5	71.7
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

109. The resources proposed reflect a net growth of $701,400, or 5.5 per cent, required for, *inter alia*, the preparatory activities of the special session of the General Assembly in 2001, organization of global and regional preparatory expert meetings and travel related to the preparatory activities and additional requirements for other staff costs and equipment.

110. The estimated extrabudgetary resources of $89,704,900 represent 86.0 per cent of the total resources available for Habitat. The proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2000–2001 is to be reviewed and approved at the seventeenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements in May 1999.

Section 14
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	5 357.3	5 956.3	599.0
Posts	23	24	1

111. The Centre for International Crime Prevention is responsible for programme 12, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. The overall objectives of the programme are: (a) to promote international cooperation and the fundamental principles of the rule of law; (b) to improve the capacity of States in preventing crime, in particular organized crime, corruption, trafficking in human beings and terrorism; (c) to provide effective substantive support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in 2000 in Vienna, and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; (d) to mobilize increased resources to provide technical cooperation; and (e) to ensure improved coordination within the United Nations system and with other relevant international organizations.

112. During the biennium, the Centre expects to accomplish the following: (a) finalization of the Convention against transnational organized crime and elaboration of three additional international legal instruments; (b) initiation of the elaboration of an additional protocol to the convention against transnational organized crime on computer-related crime and of an international convention against corruption and bribery; (c) expanded use and application by Member States of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and of the model United Nations treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters; (d) increased adherence to and implementation by Member States of the existing international conventions on terrorism; (e) increase in the capacity of Member States to develop or upgrade their legislation, policies and strategies as well as the skills of their criminal justice personnel to prevent, detect and prosecute various forms of transnational crime; (f) more effective international cooperation to prevent and control various forms of transnational crime and enhanced cooperation with other United Nations bodies and entities as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; (g) provision of valid and reliable data and information, statistical data, findings and results of action-oriented research, including high-quality analysis and updated information on structures and activities of major and emerging transnational organized criminal groups, on illicit markets, as well as on trends and patterns in the trafficking of human beings and corruption; (h) timely discharge of reporting obligations to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

113. These goals will be achieved through consultations and negotiations regarding the finalization of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the elaboration of additional instruments; the provision of advisory and technical assistance, upon the request of Member States, designed to meet their most pressing needs; monitoring the use and application of existing United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and promoting reliance on the United Nations model treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters; the collection and analysis of data and information on crime trends and criminal justice operations; and substantive servicing of the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	83.4	78.6
Other costs	16.6	21.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	5.6	5.6
Programme of work	94.4	94.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

114. The resources proposed under this section for the biennium 2000–2001 reflect an increase of 11.1 per cent, or $599,000, over current resources. Of that amount, $236,100 would be for non-recurrent requirements for the Tenth United Nations Congress to be convened in 2000 in Vienna, and $362,900 would be for strengthening the operational activities of the Centre, in particular through the establishment of one new P-4 post.

Section 15
International drug control

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	14 728.4	17 023.1	2 294.7
Posts	68	71	3

115. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme is entrusted with the leadership and coordination of all drug control activities throughout the United Nations system. The programme is responsible for programme 13, International drug control, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2000.

116. The normative functions of the Programme are derived from the international drug control treaties and concern the provision of secretariat and substantive servicing to both the International Narcotics Control

Board and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme provides extrabudgetary support for the operational activities of the Programme.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	79.1	71.9
Other costs	20.9	28.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

117. The outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, which was reflected in programme 13 of the medium-term plan for 1998–2001, as revised (A/53/6/Rev.1), has enhanced the role and responsibility of the Programme in supporting the international community in its drug control efforts. For the biennium 2000–2001, particular focus will be placed on strengthening the monitoring and evaluation capabilities of the International Narcotics Control Board and on reaching specific targets under the action plans adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The Programme will continue to provide legal services to relevant United Nations bodies, as well as legal advice and assistance to Member States to enable them to fully implement the drug control treaties. Additional activities will also be implemented to enhance the Programme's catalytic functions.

118. As regards the Programme's functions as a repository of expertise on drug control issues, emphasis will be placed on gathering information on the drug abuse situation at the national, regional and global levels, with a view to establishing a data baseline and arriving at a more accurate estimation of the magnitude of the drug abuse problem. Activities will be reoriented to provide assistance to Member States through a participatory approach in designing and implementing more comprehensive and action-oriented demand reduction strategies in order to help them to achieve the demand reduction objectives set out in the Political Declaration (resolution S-20/2, annex) and contribute to the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (resolution S-20/3, annex), both adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, held in June 1998. This reorientation will result in a better functioning International Drug Abuse Assessment System and the formulation of more effective demand reduction strategies and programmes that are socially and culturally relevant to individual Member States. Alternative development activities will focus on the follow-up to the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development, endorsed by the General Assembly at its special session (resolution S-20/4 E). The Programme will also develop a comprehensive and reliable international monitoring mechanism to guide and assess the progress of measures implemented by the international community to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of cannabis, coca and opium poppy by 2008. The Programme will continue to provide information on scientific aspects of clandestine synthetic drugs, in particular amphetamine-type-stimulants, and emerging trends in their illicit manufacture, trafficking and consumption, acting as an international clearing-house system. Assistance will be provided to fight against money-laundering through provision of advisory services to the judicial, financial and law enforcement sectors at the national level to give effect to the Political Declaration and the plan of action on countering money-laundering, adopted at the special session (resolution S-20/4 D of 10 June 1998).

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	6.4	6.3
Executive direction and management	11.9	10.8
Programme of work	81.7	82.9
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

119. The overall level of resources proposed for the programme amounts to $17,023,100, representing growth of $2,294,700, or 15.5 per cent, resulting from the proposed creation of three new posts (2 P-4 and 1 P-3) and adjustments in other objects of expenditure.

Section 16
Economic and social development in Africa

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	80 607.8	80 837.8	230.0
Posts	562	570	8

120. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is responsible for the implementation of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the medium-term plan. Seeking to make a significant contribution to the realization of Africa's development priorities in partnership with other institutions has been the main objective of the reforms and renewal of ECA in the past few years. The work programme of the Commission for the biennium 2000–2001 represents another step in that direction. It also seeks to assist African countries in preparing for major international events during the biennium, notably the mid-decade reviews of the global conferences that will take place during that period.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	74.4	75.8
Other costs	25.6	24.2
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

121. At the threshold of a new millennium, Africa is witnessing many positive changes, including economic reforms that create a favourable environment for growth and development; transitions to democratic systems of governance that enable Africans to participate in decisions that affect their lives; and the growing dynamism of the private sector and of civil society organizations, which reinforce the emergence of private-sector-led development and the consolidation of democratic rule in many countries. However, some daunting challenges, such as conflicts, lack of economic diversification, inadequate and inefficient social and economic infrastructures, external debt and poverty, remain. The main focus of the work programme in

the biennium will be to contribute to the various regional and international programmes that have been adopted in recent years to foster the promising trends in Africa's development. Strong consensus has emerged on the key elements of Africa's development agenda. The primary responsibility for implementing that agenda rests with African Governments. But regional organizations like ECA can provide support to reinforce and accelerate that effort. As mentioned above, the programme of work is derived from programme 14 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 as revised. It is based on a programme structure approved in 1996, consisting of facilitating economic and social policy analysis, enhancing food security and sustainable development, strengthening development management, harnessing information for development and promoting regional cooperation. Two new subprogrammes — promoting the advancement of women and supporting subregional activities for development — were added in the context of the revisions to the medium-term plan approved in 1998, bringing the number of subprogrammes to seven

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	0.9	0.7
Executive direction and management	4.2	5.1
Programme of work	53.7	55.2
Programme support	31.2	39.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

122. The Commission's support to its main clients — the member States — takes the form of advocacy and policy advice through seminars, workshops, group training and the dissemination of best practices; providing technical assistance and building capacities; setting norms; and serving as a forum for stakeholders to build consensus on development policy. Continuing the momentum in improving the Commission's modalities initiated in the last biennium, every effort has been made to limit the number of meetings and publications to concentrate resources and ensure depth for greater impact. New procedures to improve internal communications and professional dialogue are being instituted.

123. The subregional development centres have been strengthened to enable them to serve as full operational arms of ECA, delivering policy advice and undertaking operational work for member States and subregional intergovernmental organizations. The centres will implement the new subprogramme on promoting subregional activities for development. Together, the centres will account for about 35 per cent of the resources under the programme of work. Similarly, the Africa Centre for Women is being strengthened to give a much higher programmatic organizational and managerial profile to the issues of gender and development. The Centre will implement the new subprogramme on promoting the advancement of women.

124. To facilitate the implementation of the substantive work programme, much emphasis is being placed on technology modernization. ECA still lags behind many parts of the United Nations in the depth and scope of automation, in general and in information technology in particular. This budget seeks to upgrade the Commission's information technology capacity and to make use of information technology devices to disseminate its work, including at the subregional development centres, which will serve as major areas of outreach for the Commission.

125. In line with the changes mentioned above, the proposed programme budget includes the establishment of five new Professional posts (three P-4 and two P-3) under the two new subprogrammes, the establishment of three Local level posts through conversion from general temporary assistance to provide more reliable security coverage of the Conference Centre, the reclassification of one P-3 post to the P-4 level and increases and decreases under various non-post objects of expenditure. The increases relate mainly to additional

requirements under the new subprogrammes, and the decreases, relating mostly to general operating expenses, result from the introduction of new information and communication technologies.

Section 17
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	56 675.9	56 457.9	(218.0)
Posts	468	468	–

126. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is responsible for programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the medium-term plan. The financial and economic crisis, which occurred in a number of east and south-east Asian countries in the second half of 1997, brought in its wake sharp currency devaluation and rising inflation, recession, unemployment and poverty levels in the region. The crisis had an adverse impact on the progress achieved in many areas of social development over the last two decades in the region and on the lives of millions of people, especially the most vulnerable. The major challenges facing countries in Asia and the Pacific in the twenty-first century will be ensuring that all countries and segments of the population can share equitably the fruits of economic and social development and enhancing the capability of the developing countries to access the opportunities as well as to anticipate and respond to the risks that accompany the continuing globalization and liberalization process.

127. The Commission acknowledged the serious implications of the financial and economic crisis and revised the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001 accordingly (A/53/6/Rev.1). It was also concerned with the depth and duration of the crisis. The programme of work for the biennium 2000–2001 reflects a streamlined programme structure, from the existing 10 subprogrammes to 7, in conformity with the revised conference structure as approved by the Commission at its fifty-fourth session, held in April 1998. The efforts to rationalize the structure of the ESCAP secretariat in line with the revised programme structure and the consequent merging and consolidation of functions and redeployment of resources to priority areas are featured in the proposed programme budget of ESCAP for the biennium 2000–2001.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	86.1	84.8
Other costs	13.9	15.2
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

128. The overall objective of the proposed programme is to assist member and associate member Governments in responding more effectively and efficiently to the global environment, which has an impact on the region, as well as to the rapidly changing environment within the region itself. The Commission will continue to focus on three major themes, namely: regional economic cooperation, poverty alleviation and environment and natural resources development, although the emphasis will be shifted. The Commission will continue to serve as an important link in the integrated follow-up to the plans of action adopted by global conferences,

and efforts will be exerted to further strengthen cooperation with United Nations and non-United Nations regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies, including enhancement of collaboration with non-governmental organizations and formation of strategic alliances with major institutions in implementing the work of the Commission.

129. The outcome of the Governments' assessment in response to the 1997 questionnaire on the regular budget resource allocations of ESCAP to the 1996–1997 programme of work and the subsequent mandates and priorities of the Commission in 1997 and 1998 specifically called for allocation of additional regular budget resources to statistics; tourism development; development research and policy analysis, specifically for analysis of the effects of the economic and financial crises and the formulation of recommendations on ways and means for countries to respond to the crisis and to minimize the attendant risks; and social policy and integration of disadvantaged groups and women in development. An increased allocation of regular budget staff and non-staff resources has been proposed for these four areas in the proposed programme budget of ESCAP for the biennium 2000–2001.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	1.5	1.7
Executive direction and management	4.1	4.2
Programme of work	46.1	45.7
Programme support	48.3	48.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

130. The overall level of resources of $56,457,900 proposed for the biennium 2000–2001 reflects a 0.3 per cent reduction of $218,000. This reduction is the net result of a range of adjustments under various objects of expenditures as follows: (a) a reduction of $896,100 for posts as a result of the delayed impact of the abolition of 24 posts in 1999; the reclassification of one P-4 post to the P-5 level; and the reclassification of one Field Service post to P-4; and (b) an increase in non-post resources of $678,100 resulting from a range of adjustments in other objects of expenditure.

Section 18
Economic Commission for Europe

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	43 549.6	43 590.1	40.5
Posts	195	196	1

131. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is responsible for programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the medium-term plan. The main objective of ECE is to develop principles, information systems and instruments that facilitate understanding and harmonious economic relations among all the countries of the region, despite their diversity. The actions of ECE involve other intergovernmental bodies active in Europe as well as major non-governmental actors, in particular enterprises, local authorities and

non-governmental organizations. ECE pays particular attention to groups of countries that are less advanced in their transition to a market economy or whose economies have been affected by conflicts.

132. The programme of work to be carried out by the Commission in the biennium 2000–2001 is in conformity with the overall objectives of the revised medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, which comprises eight subprogrammes. The revised medium-term plan reflects the comprehensive reform process carried out by ECE in the past two years. Some of the elements of the reform process had already been described in the programme of work of ECE for the biennium 1998–1999, in particular the discontinuation of former subprogramme 8, Industry and technology (see A/52/6/Rev.1, vol. II, para. 18.15). The remaining elements of the reform concern, *inter alia*, the incorporation of the former subprogramme 4, Trade facilitation, in its entirety, in the revised subprogramme 6, Trade, industry and enterprise development.

133. As required by the Plan of Action adopted by ECE member countries in April 1997, all principal subsidiary bodies have prioritized their respective programme of activities, and the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work reviewed the programmes of work of the principal subsidiary bodies and recommended adjustments in their orientation and changes in the level of resources. The Group met in the autumn of 1998. Its recommendations were endorsed by the Commission in December 1998 and are reflected in the current proposals.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	91.9	92.7
Other costs	8.1	7.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

134. In the biennium 2000–2001, ECE will continue to produce statistics, information and analyses on all the countries of the region and on their increasing interdependence. In particular, this will provide new insights on major economic issues and will further constitute a basis for policy debates among member States within the framework of the annual session of the Commission, to which the reform has given a new impetus.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Executive direction and management	7.7	7.2
Programme of work	83.4	82.8
Programme support	8.9	10.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

135. The resources requested reflect an increase of $40,500 over the previous appropriation and largely reflect the proposed addition of one new P-4 post, the reclassification of one P-4 post to P-5, one P-3 post to P-4 and two P-3 posts to P-4 and a decrease under grants and contributions for computer processing, telecommunications, data storage and other specialized services provided to ECE.

Section 19
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	82 684.0	83 073.2	389.2
Posts	491	491	–

136. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is responsible for the implementation of programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the medium-term plan. The main objective of the programme is to contribute to the development of Latin America and the Caribbean by collaborating interactively with member Governments in the comprehensive analysis of development processes and in the provision of operational services. The Commission focuses its analytical work on designing public policies and facilitates the implementation of such policies, concentrating operational services in the areas of specialized information, advisory assistance, training and support for regional and international cooperation.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	79.6	79.4
Other costs	20.4	20.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

137. The programme of work consists of 12 subprogrammes, including the new subprogramme on mainstreaming the gender perspective into regional development which responds to a number of General Assembly resolutions (in particular resolution 52/100 of 12 December 1997) and agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the Economic and Social Council calling for mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	1.5	1.4
Executive direction and management	5.7	5.4
Programme of work	45.4	45.4
Programme support	47.4	47.8
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

138. The overall level of resources proposed for the biennium 2000–2001 amounts to $83,073,200, reflecting an increase of $389,200 at current rates. This increase is mainly due to the reclassification of three Local level posts to the Professional level and additional requirements for other staff costs.

Section 20
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	49 752.3	49 994.4	242.1
Posts	266	266	–

139. The programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the biennium 1998–1999 derives from programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the medium-term plan and comprises five thematic subprogrammes. The programme of work aims generally at enhancing the sustainable development of ESCWA member States and promoting regional cooperation and policy coordination among them. The programme highlights the linkages among the various dimensions of development — economic, social, cultural, technological and environmental.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	83.0	82.7
Other costs	17.0	17.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

140. The principal objective of ESCWA during the biennium 2000–2001 will be to articulate regional perspectives and mechanisms for pursuing sustainable development in selected socio-economic fields within its areas of competence, which would result in the following: (a) forging the missing regional link between national perspectives and global trends; (b) building consensus among member States on policies and on the use of norms, standards and legislative instruments by identifying common grounds; (c) assisting member countries in building capacities in various fields; (d) facilitating and increasing partnership between governmental organizations and civil society institutions; and (e) providing reliable, harmonized, comparable and timely data, information and statistics that would facilitate judicious policy action and decision-making and also assist member States in understanding and adopting internationally accepted statistical standards.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	0.2	0.2
Executive direction and management	6.5	3.6
Programme of work	45.7	45.7
Programme support	47.6	50.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

141. The resources requested reflect an increase of $242,100 over the 1998–1999 revised appropriation and largely reflect increases proposed as a result of the reclassification of one P-3 post to the P-4 level, provision of continuous support to IMIS operations, provision of contractual security services for ESCWA premises and other services to support the work of the General Services section, consultants, travel and supplies and materials, partially offset by decreases under general operating expenses and furniture and equipment.

Section 21
Regular programme of technical cooperation

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	42 655.2	42 655.2	–
Posts	–	–	–

142. The United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation complements assistance available to developing countries under other programmes. The procedures applicable to the regular programme of technical cooperation were established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2514 (XXIV) of 21 November 1969.

143. Orientation and guidance for activities under the regular programme of technical cooperation come from the medium-term plan and biennial programme budget and resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Individual activities under the regular programme are determined by the nature of requests received from developing countries.

144. The programme, which comprises activities in human rights, the environment and social development, human settlements, poverty alleviation, energy, economic development, international trade and development finance, population, public administration, finance and development, crime prevention and criminal justice, international drug control, statistics, transport and disaster mitigation and emergency humanitarian assistance, is divided into the following components: (a) sectoral advisory services, executed, as appropriate, by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the secretariat of UNCTAD, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme; and (b) regional and subregional advisory services, which are executed by the secretariats of ECE, ECA, ECLAC, ESCWA and ESCAP.

145. There are three main types of technical cooperation activities, namely, short-term advisory services, field projects and training.

146. For the biennium 2000–2001, the resource requirements are estimated at the same level as was approved for 1998–1999.

Section 22
Human rights

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998-1999	*2000-2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	40 832.6	42 369.3	1 536.7
Posts	141	148	7

147. Programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan is implemented by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The programme's objectives include playing the leading role on human rights issues and emphasizing the importance of human rights on the international and national agendas. In addition, the programme, through greater international cooperation and coordination and increased effectiveness of the United Nations human rights machinery, focuses on improving respect for human rights at the national level, the adoption of a comprehensive and integrated United Nations approach to the promotion and protection of human rights and on more efficient methods to prevent human rights violations and remove obstacles to the full realization of human rights.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998-1999	*2000-2001*
Posts	68.6	70.0
Other costs	31.4	30.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

148. The programme will aim at the adoption of a multidimensional strategy for the right to development, a significant enhancement of support for that right from relevant United Nations bodies and a significant increase in recognition of economic, social and cultural rights through activities for their protection and their integration into the programmes of international development and financial organizations. Other aims include the full integration of the human rights of women and the girl child into United Nations activities and more effective measures to promote equality, dignity and tolerance to fight racism and xenophobia and to protect minorities, indigenous populations, migrant workers, the disabled and other vulnerable groups.

149. The programme further aims at reinforcing the United Nations as the unique worldwide forum for the discussion and resolution of human rights matters of international concern through its support for human rights bodies and organs; ensuring the effective functioning of the treaty monitoring system and its progressive improvement; and providing support to the human rights complaint procedures.

150. The programme also has as an objective to assist States, at their request, to develop and implement national human rights plans of action strengthening national structures with an impact on democracy and the rule of law and the establishment of national institutions to give effect to the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights. Other objectives include effective education and public information programmes and strengthened contribution of non-governmental organizations, national institutions, grass-roots organizations and civil society in United Nations human rights activities. In addition, the programme's aims encompass human rights field activities and operations and support for the implementation of a strengthened system of special procedures based on harmonization and rationalization of work.

151. The programme of activities has been divided into three subprogrammes, each of which focuses on a specific area of competence and methods of work, with the aim of avoiding duplication and permitting a more efficient use of limited resources, while at the same time implementing all the mandates of the programme.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Policy-making organs	11.9	11.7
Executive direction and management	12.4	12.7
Programme of work	71.8	70.1
Programme support	3.9	5.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

152. The enhancement of the human rights programme and its full integration into the broad range of the activities of the Organization was one of the objectives of the reform of the United Nations. The restructuring of the human rights secretariat was implemented with its consolidation into a single Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The new structure and methods of work of the Office enhance research and analytical capacity, help to increase flexibility, avoid duplication, enable expertise to be built up and permit more efficient use of limited resources for the implementation of all legislative mandates.

153. The increase of resource requirements in 2000–2001 includes: (a) the proposed establishment of seven new Professional posts as follows: three posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 P-3) under subprogramme 1, Right to development, research and analysis; two P-3 posts under subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights bodies and organs; one P-5 post under subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities; and one P-4 post at the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; and (b) the proposed reclassification of one General Service post from Other level to Principal level. The increase in the percentage of resources allocated to programme support results mainly from the transfer of responsibilities for the publication programme and similar activities relating to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in its entirety from subprogramme 1 and the immediate office of the High Commissioner (executive direction and management) to programme support.

Section 23
Protection of and assistance to refugees

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	45 051.0	45 051.0	–
Posts	220	220	–

154. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is responsible for the implementation of programme 21, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the medium-term plan. The overall objectives of this programme, namely, to provide international protection to refugees and to seek permanent solutions to their problems, are set out in the statute of the Office (General Assembly resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950). The basic provisions of the statute as regards UNHCR assistance activities

were expanded by the General Assembly in its resolution 832 (IX) of 21 October 1954, and in its resolution 40/118 of 13 December 1985, the Assembly called upon the High Commissioner also to provide assistance to returnees, as well as to monitor their safety and well-being on return.

155. Closely linked to the discharge of its mandate to ensure international protection of refugees is the provision of humanitarian assistance to people of concern to the High Commissioner. In complex humanitarian emergencies, UNHCR contributes to the provision of humanitarian assistance coordinated by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991. Further, on the basis of specific requests from the Secretary-General or the competent principal organs of the United Nations and with the consent of the State concerned, UNHCR provides humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons (resolution 48/116 of 20 December 1993).

156. By the end of the biennium 2000–2001, the anticipated accomplishments of UNHCR would include development of strategies, in cooperation with States and other organizations, aimed at mitigating and preventing the causes of forced population displacement; increased accession to international and regional conventions and improved implementation of refugees' rights; further development of contingency planning, emergency preparedness and response capabilities, in coordination with other organizations, for immediate, effective and efficient response to situations of forced human displacement; and reinforcement of development initiatives to the extent possible when providing humanitarian assistance in an environmentally sensitive manner, particularly in relation to the needs and capacities of refugee women and the special situation of refugee children.

157. In accordance with article 20 of the statute of UNHCR, no expenditure other than administrative expenditures related to the functioning of the Office are to be borne by the budget of the United Nations, while all other expenditures related to the activities of the High Commissioner are to be financed from voluntary contributions.

158. During 1999, UNHCR plans to engage in an exercise to redefine and recategorize its posts in order to establish congruence with the categories used by UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA. The new categorization, already approved by the Executive Committee of UNHCR and the Advisory Committee, creates three categories of posts within UNHCR, namely, programme, programme support, and management and administration. Accordingly, the resources requested have been maintained at the 1998–1999 level pending completion of the categorization of all the posts. The level of resources proposed under the regular budget represents approximately 2.6 per cent of the totality of resources anticipated for UNHCR in 2000–2001 and reflects the continuation of 220 posts, accompanied by provision for resources for general temporary assistance, the United Nations regular budget component for rental and maintenance of the premises occupied by UNHCR in Geneva and supplies and materials.

Section 24
Palestine refugees

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	21 804.8	21 800.6	(4.2)
Posts	92	92	–

159. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is responsible for programme 22, Palestine refugees, of the medium-term plan. As decided by the General Assembly in its resolution 3331 B (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, the expenses related to the emoluments of international staff in the service of UNRWA, which would otherwise have been charged to voluntary contributions, are provided for under the regular budget for the duration of the Agency's mandate. The current mandate of UNRWA extends until June 2002.

160. The overall strategy of UNRWA for the coming biennium is to continue to provide the assistance it has rendered for some 50 years until there is a resolution of the issue of the Palestine refugees. Such assistance involves the provision of a basic education and health, relief and social services to eligible Palestine refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. With the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, the Agency embarked upon a process of harmonizing its planning and services with the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

161. The level of resources would provide for the continuation of 82 posts in the Professional category and above and 10 General Service posts, as well as general temporary assistance funded by the regular budget.

Section 25
Humanitarian assistance

162. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the work programme which is derived from programme 20 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. The activities under the work programme are clustered around the following subprogrammes: policy and analysis; complex emergencies; natural disaster reduction; disaster relief; and humanitarian emergency information.

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	17 583.2	19 284.7	1 701.5
Posts	50	54	4

163. With the implementation of the programme of reform, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 52/12 A of 12 November 1997 and 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, the functions of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs have been streamlined to focus on three core functions, namely: (a) policy development and coordination in support of the Secretary-General ensuring that all humanitarian issues, including those which fall between gaps in existing mandates of agencies, are addressed; (b) advocacy of humanitarian issues with political organs, notably the Security Council; and (c) the coordination of humanitarian emergency response. A humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council has been established to provide guidance on overall humanitarian issues and coordination.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	56.9	56.6
Other costs	43.1	43.4
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

164. During the biennium 2000–2001, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will focus on further promoting and coordinating the development of a common principled policy on humanitarian issues and on improving the management and practice of operational and strategic coordination through the development of practical tools for field and headquarters coordination, based on lessons learned and accountability reviews. Increasing awareness and strengthening the application of humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law in the work of the United Nations and its Member States, civil society actors and other humanitarian partners and constituents are important aspects of the work of the Office. To this end, the Office will continue to strengthen the mechanisms available to support its coordination mandate, including the leadership of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, management of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and refining of the consolidated appeals process.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Executive direction and management	12.9	13.9
Programme of work	64.8	63.9
Programme support	22.3	22.2
Total	**100.0**	**100.00**

165. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 reflects growth in the amount of $1,701,500, or 9.6 per cent over the 1998–1999 revised appropriation. Included in this increase is the establishment of four new Professional posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 2 P-3) aimed at improving the mix between regular budget and extrabudgetary posts of the Office and $787,000 in non-post requirements. The increase in non-post requirements is distributed as follows: (a) $213,400 for other staff costs so as to improve the flexibility of the Office in supplementing existing staff resources during critical emergency situations; (b) $90,100 for specialized consultancy services as to enable the Office to address the problems of displaced persons in a comprehensive manner; (c) $55,100 under travel for relief missions and consultations; (d) $204,300 for contractual services, mainly intended for continuation of the ReliefWeb Internet site and its expansion to improve on-line services and field connectivity; (e) $237,600 for general operating expenses to meet the increasing costs of communications, hospitality, supplies and materials, and for the purchase of three satellite telephones for mission-related use; and (f) $300,000 to raise the cash grant capacity of the United Nations from $1,200,000 to $1,500,000 to enable it to reach affected populations that cannot otherwise be reached by scarce national resources. Furthermore, five Professional posts have been internally redeployed in areas of core functions of the Office with a view to strengthening and enhancing the role of the United Nations in the coordination of international response to natural disasters and other emergencies.

Section 26
Public information

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	135 574.0	137 583.0	2 009.0
Posts	730	730	–

166. The Department of Public Information is responsible for programme 23, Public information, of the medium-term plan. As the focal point for public information activities of the United Nations, the Department continues to make concerted efforts to enhance the image of the Organization and to promote an informed understanding of its work among peoples of the world through the implementation of programme of activities mandated by the General Assembly, keeping in view the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the priority areas defined by the Assembly.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	71.7	70.7
Other costs	28.3	29.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

167. The priority for the programme of work in 2000–2001 will focus on a strategic and coordinated approach to expanding the global reach of the United Nations system's information and communication activities, geared towards communicating the importance of a revitalized United Nations capable of responding to rapidly evolving challenges and helping to set the global agenda for the new millennium, particularly in such areas as peace and security, disarmament, the question of Palestine, self-determination and decolonization, economic and social development and human rights.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Executive direction and management	3.5	3.5
Programme of work	92.5	92.6
Programme support	4.0	3.9
Total	**100.0**	**100.00**

168. The proposals reflect net growth of 1.4 per cent, attributable mainly to the requirements for special meetings and conferences scheduled to be held in 2000–2001. The overall number of posts remains unchanged; however, it includes the proposed reclassification of a P-5 post to the D-1 level for the Chief of Office, Office of the Under-Secretary-General and Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary-General.

Section 27
Management and central support services

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	446 297.8	442 115.6	(4 182.2)
Posts	1 505	1 522	17

169. The Department of Management is responsible for the implementation of programme 24, Management and central support services, of the medium-term plan as revised. The Department includes the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, the Office of Human Resources Management, the Office of Central Support Services and the administrative offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	48.4	49.8
Other costs	51.6	50.2
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

170. The Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management provides overall direction and supervision of the Department of Management as well as facilitating the administration of justice, and provides management and financial management services for the Secretariat. In the context of the Secretary-General's programme of reform, a management policy office was established in 1998–1999 in order to provide support to the strategic management policy team. It aims to further the culture of transparency and accountability in relations with Member States through the institution of an effective periodic reporting system for each of the programmes; ensure that managerial policies are in place that reflect the best management practices, and establish an integrated approach to the Secretary-General's proposals for increasing efficiency and cost-effectiveness throughout the Organization.

171. With respect to the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, the main objective for the biennium will be further improvement in the accuracy of accounting and budgetary data, focusing on a more systematic review of unliquidated obligations, enhanced monitoring of expenditures, enhancement of the reporting capacity of IMIS and reduction in the backlog of inter-office vouchers and receivables.

172. The overall level of resources proposed reflects a net increase of $638,200, related essentially to additional requirements for general temporary assistance for the maintenance and support of IMIS Releases 3 and 4 and tasks related to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*, partially offset by reduced requirements under general operating expenses and furniture and equipment. As concerns IMIS, it will be recalled that eight posts in the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts were abolished in the 1996–1997 and 1998–1999 bienniums in anticipation of IMIS releases, and two posts were redeployed to IMIS central maintenance in 1998–1999. Based on experience gained to date with Release 3 and with the forthcoming introduction of Release 4 relating to payroll, it has been estimated that for the biennium 2000–2001 and beyond, four positions (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) would be required for the core ongoing maintenance responsibilities of the Office. However, until the longer term

pattern of requirements for continuing maintenance and support of IMIS becomes clearly established, it is proposed that in the first instance these positions be financed from the regular budget through the use of general temporary assistance.

173. The Office of Human Resources Management is responsible for the implementation of the programme for the reform of human resources management of the Organization, announced by the Secretary-General in 1998. In line with that programme, the Office delegates administrative functions to the heads of departments and offices so as to concentrate on areas of human resources planning, human resource information management systems, career development and provision of advice and support while monitoring the delegation of authority to sectoral and line managers of the Secretariat. In consideration of the above objectives, during the biennium 2000–2001 the Office of Human Resources Management would focus on: (a) progressive implementation of a staff training and development programme, including Organization-wide training and learning coordination; (b) concentration of its resources in designated areas to manage the process of delegation of authority, monitoring and accountability systems, utilizing particular advantages of the integrated management information system; and (c) contributing in the staff-management global consultative process. The global staff training and development activities will receive priority attention with a corresponding increase of resources for those activities.

174. The overall level of resources proposed reflects a net increase of $1,635,600 related to a significant expansion of training resources as well as to additional general temporary assistance for the maintenance and support of IMIS Releases 1 and 2 ($674,000) and for tasks related to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*. Based on experience gained to date with Releases 1 and 2, it is estimated that for the biennium 2000–2001, eight positions (1 P-3, 2 P-2/1 and 5 General Service (2 Principal level and 3 Other level)) would be required for the core ongoing maintenance responsibilities of the Office of Human Resources Management. Until the longer term pattern of requirements is clearly established, it is proposed that these positions be financed through general temporary assistance.

175. The Office of Central Support Services is responsible for the provision of cost-effective, high-quality and timely services (security and safety, integrated management information and information technology services, procurement, travel and transportation, facilities management and archives and records management) to support the substantive programmes of the Organization, including those related to peacekeeping, humanitarian and other field operations, as well as conference and other common service programmes.

176. During the biennium 2000–2001, priority attention will continue to be paid to enhance the information technology area. Following the completion of IMIS development and its transition into an operational mode, a total of 29 positions funded during the development of the system under general temporary assistance funds are proposed for conversion into regular posts for 2000–2001 under that subprogramme. In total, the proposed requirements reflect a decrease in comparative prices in the account of $5.6 million as compared to the revised appropriation. That results mainly from the implementation of the cost-saving measures in facilities management and the reduction in resources for IMIS following its transition to the operational mode.

177. At the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Division of Administration will continue to provide budgetary, human resources, financial, management and general services to the Office and to all other organizational units under its purview. In addition, it will provide administrative and general services for United Nations meetings held at Geneva and for specialized agencies under standing or special arrangements between the United Nations and the agencies concerned.

178. In 2000–2001, the focus of attention will continue to be on streamlining and consolidating processes and tasks, increasing automation of routine actions and capitalizing on the advances in telecommunications services offered by competitive operations in the deregulated market and the advances in technology that would enable broadcasting of conferences and remote interpretation. As to the implementation of IMIS Releases 3 and 4, scheduled for 2000, it is expected that there will be significant changes in work methods

in the financial area, in particular, those related to conversion of data from the old system, as well as training, testing, and input of data not previously required by the system.

179. The resources requested reflect the proposed abolition of nine posts, consisting of one P-2/1 and eight General Service (Other level) as a result of increased automation of operations, streamlining of procedures and delegation of authority for staff management to departmental/office programme managers and the reclassification of one P-3 to P-4 in the Electronic Services Section to provide supervision of client services. In addition, increases have been provided for general temporary assistance connected with IMIS maintenance and support when Releases 3 and 4 become operational, contractual services for training services and furniture and equipment.

180. At the United Nations Office at Vienna, the Division of Administrative and Common Services will continue to provide to the United Nations Secretariat units and other international organizations located at the Vienna International Centre services in the areas of personnel, finance and general support services, including information technology and security and safety services. The Division also coordinates and monitors provision of services provided for the United Nations by other organizations, namely buildings management, medical, printing and library services. As of 1998, the Division has provided selected services to the provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

181. The resources requested reflect proposals for the reclassification of one P-3 to P-4 for the Chief of the Staff Administration Unit, one P-4 to P-5 for the Chief of the Information Technology Section and one General Service (Other level) to General Service (Principal level) for a supervisor of the help desk. In addition, it largely reflects increases under general temporary assistance for maintenance and support for IMIS once implementation of the system is complete, and decreases under general operating expenses and grants and contributions. IMIS Releases 3 and 4 are scheduled for implementation during the biennium replacing current reliance on the mainframe and application support provided by UNIDO.

182. The Division of Administrative Services at Nairobi consists of the Office of the Chief of Administration, the Financial Resources Management Service, the Human Resources Management Service, Support Services, the Information Technology Service, the Security and Safety Service and Conference Services.

183. The United Nations Office at Nairobi was established on 1 January 1996 as a successor to the two separate administrations of UNEP and Habitat as well as the United Nations Common Services at Nairobi.

184. During the biennium 1998–1999 the Division of Administrative Services was further restructured to improve its operations. At its fifth special session, held in May 1998, the UNEP Governing Council decided to streamline and finalize the merger of UNEP administrative services with the United Nations Office at Nairobi in line with the original proposals of the Secretary-General contained in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session (A/49/336). That merger was implemented on 1 July 1998. Further streamlining and consolidation involving UNCHS is under review and is planned to be completed by the end of 1999.

185. The activities of both UNEP and UNCHS are predominately funded from extrabudgetary resources. On the basis of data on administrative workloads in support of their operations, UNEP and UNCHS reimburse the United Nations Office at Nairobi for the services provided for their extrabudgetary activities. Therefore, the major component of funding for the Nairobi administration is of an extrabudgetary origin, unlike the administration in Geneva and Vienna, which are financed mainly from the regular budget. This situation was addressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, whereby the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to bring the financial arrangements of the United Nations Office at Nairobi into line with those of similar United Nations administrative offices. In response to that request and with a view to easing the administrative costs levied on the substantive programmes of UNEP and Habitat, the Secretary-General has made a commitment to increase gradually the regular budget component of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, a commitment which is reflected in these estimates.

186. The proposals under section 27G provide, therefore, for an increase of the regular budget component by $1.8 million, or 15.1 per cent over the current appropriation. That includes the proposals for establishing

four additional posts under the regular budget to administer areas previously under the responsibility of staff financed from extrabudgetary resources. Two such posts (1 P-5 and 1 P-3) would be deployed to the Financial Resources Management Service to assume responsibility for financial administration of the regular budget and extrabudgetary activities, including some of those transferred from UNEP. The other two posts (one P-4 and one P-3) would be deployed to the Human Resources Management Service to take over responsibility for administration of staff of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, UNEP and Habitat including the staff financed by extrabudgetary resources.

Section 28
Internal oversight services

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	17 941.5	18 885.0	943.5
Posts	82	87	5

187. The Office of Internal Oversight Services is responsible for programme 25, Internal oversight, of the medium-term plan. The Office evaluates the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization's activities and assists departments and offices with performance monitoring and self-evaluation; performs financial, compliance, information technology and management audits; monitors the internal control system of the Organization; and conducts investigations regarding the proper utilization of the resources and staff of the Organization.

Percentage distribution of resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Posts	89.1	89.5
Other costs	10.9	10.5
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

188. During the biennium, the Office will deliver the following outputs: (a) annual analytical and summary report on the activities of the Office and ad hoc reports, periodic compliance monitoring and inspection visits to United Nations offices away from Headquarters and semi-annual reports on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Office; (b) four in-depth evaluation studies, four triennial reviews of the implementation of evaluation recommendations approved by the General Assembly, four interim reports on departments and offices' compliance with approved evaluation recommendations, responses to queries, training workshops and a manual and periodic bulletins to assist departments and offices in self-evaluation; (c) 195 audit reports on the Organization's activities covering one or more substantive, administrative and financial systems and related internal controls with the aim of providing management with recommendations on organizational restructuring, rule or policy changes, cost savings opportunities, streamlined processes and procedures and integrated use of technology; (d) three instances of periodic monitoring of programme implementation, four inspections and four follow-up inspection reviews, and training and provision of guidelines to assist programme managers in strengthening their oversight functions; and (e) further reduction of the 1994–1999 investigation case backlog on theft, embezzlement, smuggling, bribery and other forms

of misconduct as well as waste of resources, abuse of authority and mismanagement, improved confidential reporting facility and recommendations on corrective actions to preclude the commissions of such violations.

189. During the biennium, the Office will manage the responsibilities of each oversight unit to ensure coherence and strike a balance towards comprehensive oversight coverage in the priority areas set out in the medium-term plan and in the Secretary-General's reform proposal (A/51/950/Add.1–7). The Office will continue to endeavour to develop the relationship between the Office and the operational funds and programmes. Emphasis will continue to be placed on self-monitoring and self-evaluation on the part of programme managers, with guidance from the Office.

Percentage distribution of resources by component

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*
Executive direction and management	11.9	14.0
Programme of work	88.1	86.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

190. An increase in resources for travel and consultants is envisaged. The increase in resources will allow audits to be carried out in cycles of three to four years in accordance with generally accepted audit standards. The oversight cycle will be supplemented by systematic compliance monitoring of the Office's recommendations on a regular basis.

191. The proposed staffing reflects an additional post for a planning and compliance officer at the P-5 level and an administrative assistant at the General Service level, the reclassification of the post of special assistant from the P-5 to the D-1 level in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, two additional auditor posts (1 P-4 in New York and 1 P-3 in Nairobi) and an auditing assistant at the General Service level in the Audit and Management Consulting Division. The increase in resources will ensure that the Office is adequately staffed to fulfil its core oversight functions.

Section 29
Jointly financed administrative activities

Comparison of overall resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	5 824.2	8 173.6	2 349.4

192. This section covers the United Nations share in the costs of the International Civil Service Commission and the Joint Inspection Unit, and of inter-agency-financed secretariats of subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, namely, the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions, the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions and the Information Systems Coordination Committee.

193. The costs of the jointly financed activities are shared on the basis of formulas agreed to by the participating organizations. The provisions are proposed on a net basis and represent the United Nations share in the total costs relating to those bodies. The full budgets of those activities are still presented to the General Assembly for its consideration and approval but the appropriations requested for the biennium 2000–2001

relate only to the United Nations share. The proposals for the appropriation made under this section reflect an increase in requirements over the level of the appropriation approved for the biennium 1998–1999 in the amount of $2,349,400. The increase is attributed to the fact that, unlike in the bienniums 1996–1997 and 1998–1999, the United Nations share in the budgets of these five bodies would also include the components of costs relating to UNHCR and UNRWA. This is done to reflect the fact that the United Nations represents both programmes at the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery and assumes the related financial responsibility vis-à-vis those jointly financed bodies.

194. Within the overall level of resources, $4,277,700 relates to the International Civil Service Commission, $2,657,800 to the Joint Inspection Unit, $502,600 to the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions, $458,300 to the Information Systems Coordination Committee and $277,200 to the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions.

Section 30
Special expenses

Comparison of overall resources

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	52 684.3	49 619.8	(3 064.5)

195. Resources are provided under section 30 to cover specific expenditure requirements for after-service health insurance, compensatory payments, general insurance charges, bank charges, inter-organizational security measures and pension payments to former Secretaries-General. As a result of stable health insurance costs in 1997 and 1998, the growth of the after-service health insurance programme has slowed.

Section 31
Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance

Comparison of overall resources and posts

	1998–1999	*2000–2001*	*Change*
Resources (thousands of United States dollars)	34 173.1	43 127.6	8 954.5

196. This section covers alteration, improvement and major maintenance of the premises occupied by the Organization at Headquarters and six offices away from headquarters. As in the previous biennium, greater emphasis is now being placed by all offices on a programme of major maintenance of the premises of the Organization to address health and safety issues and the progressive deterioration of the buildings occupied by the Organization. Properties owned by the United Nations at Headquarters are over 50 years old, requiring more active intervention to prevent structural, functional and technical obsolescence. Further, with new technologies in communications, office automation and information management, modifications and alterations to the buildings have become necessary to accommodate the specialized requirements of those technologies.

197. The increase in the level of resources requested in 2000–2001 should be viewed in the context of the historically low levels of funding provided for programmes of preventive maintenance and repair and the

significant reductions effected in this section during previous bienniums during periods of severe financial constraint in lieu of higher-priority substantive programme activities. As deferments occur a number of times, the cumulative effect leads to breakdowns and inevitably a substantial portion of the necessarily reduced budget allocation has to be redeployed from routine maintenance to unforeseen building repair emergencies.

198. In the case of Headquarters, the Office of Central Support Services has developed the first stages of a long-term capital master plan. The plan encompasses the six buildings at Headquarters (North Lawn Extension, Secretariat, Conference Building, General Assembly Building, South Annex Building and Dag Hammarskjöld Library) as well as the UNITAR Building. All building components were investigated in order to determine their present condition, expected lifespan and conformity to safety standards and current industry norms. Many elements of the buildings were in excellent condition as a result of successful maintenance programmes in the early years and also because of the high quality of initial material selections. In other areas, systems are well over their useful lifespan, and the level of emergency breakdowns can therefore be anticipated to continue to rise sharply, curtailing any future improvements. At this stage the provisions requested for Headquarters under this budget section do not include those required for the capital improvements identified under the capital master plan.